

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 17, and 19-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 17 are amended and claim 18 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 8 and 17 can be found at least in Fig. 2. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. May 9 Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Utama at the interview held May 9, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

II. Claim Objection

The Office Action object to claim 18 as allegedly failing to further limit the subject matter of the claim from which it depends. By this Amendment, claim 18 is canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

III. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,752,716 to Nishimura et al. (hereinafter "Nishimura") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,936 to Braun, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,959,613 to Rosenberg et al. (hereinafter "Rosenberg I") and U.S. Patent No. 6,147,674 also to Rosenberg et al. (hereinafter "Rosenberg II") and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0045935 to Chang et al. (hereinafter "Chang"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the May 9 personal interview, the applied references fail to disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, "a vibration condition setting section which performs processing for accepting a vibration condition setting which is set by the operator,"

and "wherein the vibration condition setting section performs condition setting processing to set vibration conditions of a vibration content which includes at least vibration intensity, a vibration pattern and vibration length of the vibration mechanism," as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8 and 17.

The Office Action alleges that Braun discloses the above features in Fig. 5 because Braun discloses allowing a user to set a type of vibration feedback for various actions, and also an intensity value with respect to those vibration feedbacks. However, Braun fails to disclose that the user is additionally able to set a vibration length of the force feedbacks. Thus, Braun fails to disclose the above feature.

During the May 9 interview, Examiner Utama argued that Rosenberg I cured this deficiency of Braun because Rosenberg I discloses in Figs. 5-7 that force feedback waveforms can be modified, including their durations. However, Rosenberg I fails to disclose that a user would be capable of modifying these durations. Instead, Rosenberg I merely discloses that a force feedback controller has the capability to respond to various force feedback waveforms. Rosenberg I is silent with respect to allowing a user to modify those settings. Consequently, Rosenberg I fails to at least cure Braun's deficiency. The remaining references also fail to disclose the above features.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 8 and 17 are patentable over the applied references. Claims 2, 9 and 19-22 are patentable at least for their dependencies from the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. By this Amendment, claim 18 is canceled, thereby rendering its rejection moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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